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# Dairy Update

Whitewashing the Dairy Barn  
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Stall barns, where cows are milked, are considered a part of the food processing plant. The U. S. Public Health Service guidelines state that interior wall and ceiling surfaces of stall dairy barns are to be smooth, light colored, washable and clean.

In most new barns, materials that are easily cleaned are commonly used. But in older barns, the dairyman must depend on whitewashing annually to maintain his barn in a satisfactory condition.

Whitewash is a mixture of lime and water plus other materials. It has a low initial cost but a short service life. Whitewash builds up with repeated applications, and sooner or later it peels and scales. Thus, it requires a complete removal of the old before a satisfactory application of the new can be accomplished.

Most Grade-A dairymen in Minnesota have a custom operator to apply whitewash. We have been able to identify these operators; there may be others.

W. J. Brown Spray Service  
 Rt 3, Box 96  
 Appleton, Mn 56208

Alfred Kvern  
 916 E. Cavour St.  
 Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gibbs Spray Service  
 205 No. Washington St.  
 St. Peter, Mn 56082

Dick Lanches  
 323 E. 8th St.  
 Wabasha, Mn 55981

Lester Gutzwiller  
 32 Main St. So.  
 St. Michael, Mn 55082

Joe Lynn  
 Rt 1 Box 80  
 Welch, Mn 55089

Neil's Twin-State Air  
 Cleaning & Whitewashing Service  
 1520 W. Linden St.  
 Stillwater, Mn 55082

Walderacres, Inc.  
 531-12th St. E.  
 Glencoe, Mn 55336

Jacobson Spray Service  
 Rt 1 Box 140A  
 Waverly, Mn 55390

John Wimmer  
 Rt 3 Box 195  
 Litchfield, Mn 55355

Adolph Kent  
 Rt 3 Box 37B  
 Dodge Center, Mn 55927

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## Surface Preparation

Before applying whitewash, remove all dirt, scale and loose material by scraping, brushing with a wire brush, or using a high-pressure water gun. Then dampen the walls and/or ceiling just before applying the whitewash because the moisture improves the adherence of the whitewash.

## Whitewash for Brick, Stone & Concrete Surfaces

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture "Home and Garden" Bulletin No. 184 recommends the following whitewash formula for use on brick, stone and concrete:

1. 25 lbs. of white Portland cement
2. 25 lbs. of hydrated lime
3. Mix thoroughly to a thick slurry
4. Thin to a consistency of thick cream by adding water
5. Mix only enough for a few hours use
6. To reduce chalking, add 1 to 2 lbs. of dry calcium chloride dissolved in a small amount of water to the mix just before applying

## Whitewash for Wood Surface

The same U.S.D.A. bulletin listed previously gives this whitewash formula for general woodwork:

1. Soak 50 lbs. of hydrated lime in 6 gallons of water to make 8 gallons of paste. Note: refined limes such as chemical hydrate, agricultural spray hydrate, finishing lime or pressure hydrated lime have fewer lumps and will make a smoother paste.
2. Dissolve 15 lbs. of salt in 5 gallons water
3. Mix the salt solution into the 8 gallons of paste, stirring constantly. Thin the preparation to the desired consistency by adding water.
4. To reduce chalking, use 5 lbs. of dry calcium chloride instead of the salt.